

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PS
4-7-03

In Application of:

Haruyasu SAKATA, et al.

Application No.: 10/043,259

Filed: January 14, 2002

For: INFORMATION RECORDING/REPRODUCING
APPARATUS

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)
) Confirmation No.: 4657
)
) Group Art Unit: 2652
)
) Examiner: Unassigned
)
)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 03 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form-1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A European Search Report dated March 5, 2003 is attached together with the documents listed thereon. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Search Report and listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form-1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not

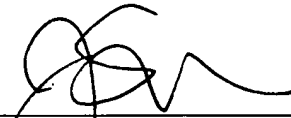
constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 2, 2003

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